

Accident Investigation Scenario and possible questions to ask based on scenario

An employee is outside climbing a ladder when the employee falls and twists his left knee and hurts his back.

What are some environmental conditions you would want to observe?

Weather conditions

Type of surface ladder is on

Incline of surface ladder is on

Stability of surface ladder is on

Slipperiness of surface ladder is on

What other physical conditions would you want to observe and perhaps take pictures of?

Condition of ladder

Cleanliness of ladder rungs

Height of ladder compared to height of area employee was trying to reach (is the ladder tall enough to safely reach the height?)

Horizontal distance from ladder to area person was trying to reach

Load rating of ladder compared to weight on the ladder (person plus all equipment)

What information would you want from and questions would you want to ask the employee?

How do you feel?

What are your injuries?

Please describe what happened.

What were the weather conditions when the accident happened?

What were you trying to do when you were on the ladder?

Were you holding anything, carrying anything while on the ladder?

Why did you use this particular ladder?

Is there a different way to do the job that is safer than using a ladder?

Have you gone through ladder safety training?

Is this the way this task is normally done?

Why didn't you move the ladder closer?

Was a taller ladder available?

Do you have any suggestions for safer ways to perform this task?

Was anyone helping you (to stabilize) the ladder while you were using it?

Did you inspect the ladder before using it?

What information would you want to obtain and questions would you want to ask witnesses?

Please describe what happened.

Why do you think the accident occurred? (ladder defective, improperly used, operator error.)

Has the employee made any comments to you regarding the accident? If so, what?

Has the employee said anything regarding a similar injury either at work or out of work?

What other information would you want to know, research or obtain?

OSHA recommendations/regulations for ladder usage

Ladder manufacturer's guidelines for ladder usage

Was ladder inspected regularly?

Admin's guidelines for ladder usage

Admin's guidelines for doing this task

Ways other organizations perform this task

Safer ways, if any, to do the task

Job hazard analysis for the task

Training records showing whether employee was trained how to properly use the ladder